

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 EB-11 DRC-01 /116 W

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R 131836Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7974

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UK, PINT, EEC

SUBJECT: GENERAL ELECTION: WILSON SEEKS TO MAKE EC
AN ISSUE

REF: LONDON 1951

1. IN HIS DAILY MIDDAY PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY
(FEBRUARY 12) AND IN A MAJOR ADDRESS AT LUTON LAST
NIGHT, HAROLD WILSON SERVED NOTICE THAT LABOR WOULD
SEEK TO MAKE THE COMMON MARKET A MAJOR ISSUE IN THE
CAMPAIGN. HE REITERATED THE PLEDGE CONTAINED IN
LABOR'S MANIFESTO THAT AN INCOMING LABOR GOVERNMENT
WOULD IMMEDIATELY INITIATE RENEGOTIATION OF THE TERMS
OF BRITISH MEMBERSHIP, AND THAT DURING SUCH RENEGOTIA-
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TION, AND UNTIL THE BRITISH PEOPLE HAD VOTED ON THE

OUTCOME, IT WOULD STOP FURTHER PROCESSES OF INTEGRATION, PARTICULARLY AS THEY AFFECTED FOOD TAXES. WILSON CHARGED THAT BRITAIN HAD BEEN "DRAGOONED INTO THE COMMON MARKET ON TERMS DICTATED BY M. POMPIDOU," AND HE MADE VARIOUS SCATHING REMARKS ABOUT HEATH'S ALLEGED SUBSERVIENCE TO THE FRENCH PRESIDENT.

2. COMMENT: PRO-MARKETEERS IN THE LABOR PARTY HAD CAUTIONED US THAT IF WILSON FOUND THE GOING ROUGH IN A GENERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN, HE WOULD NOT HESITATE TO "PLAY THE MARKET CARD," I.E., APPEAL TO XENOPHOBIC, ESPECIALLY ANTI-FRENCH, SENTIMENT AMONG THE BRITISH PEOPLE, AND STIR UP HOSTILITY TO THE EC IN AN EFFORT TO WIN VOTES. HIS SPEECH AT LUTON SUGGESTS THEY WERE RIGHT.

3. THE EC HAS FAILED TO GENERATE MUCH ENTHUSIASM AMONG THE BRITISH PEOPLE, MANY OF WHOM INCORRECTLY BELIEVE THAT MEMBERSHIP IS A MAJOR CAUSE OF HIGHER FOOD PRICES. NONETHELESS, OPINION POLLS INDICATE THAT THE QUESTION OF STAYING IN OR COMING OUT DOES NOT RANK VERY HIGH AS A CRITICAL VOTING DETERMINANT. FAR MORE LIKELY TO AFFECT THE OUTCOME OF THE ELECTION ARE THE ISSUES OF INFLATION AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS.

ANNENBERG

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Message Attributes

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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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TAGS: PINT, UK, EEC, (WILSON, HAROLD)
To: STATE
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